

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Claim Objections

The Office objected that the preambles of claim 1 is inconsistent with the preambles of claims 2-8. Those objections are overcome herein by conforming the preambles of claims 1-8.

The Office also objected that claim 9 contained an informality, but did not indicate the nature of the informality. In any event, claim 9 has been substantially amended herein.

The Office also objected that claims 3 and 7 had no antecedent basis for the term "the spring". The Applicant agrees, and has amended those claims accordingly.

II. 35 USC 102

The Office rejected claims 1, and 9-12 as being anticipated by Lemire [US 6225580]. Lemire does indeed disclose a switch with a sub-assembly on the user side of the panel, but fails to teach, suggest, or motivate one to dispose a sealing member between a portion of the switch and an underside of the panel. Indeed, the switch of Lemire would have no use for such a sealing member because the switch is sealed at knob 56 (see sealing ring on Lemire figure 5). Independent claims 1, 9, and 10 are all amended herein to recite combinations that include a sealing member between a portion of the switch and an underside of the panel.

III. 35 USC 103

The Office rejected claims 1, and 9-12 as being anticipated by Fowler (US 4625084) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 4857677), and further rejected claims 3-8 over Lemire in view of Allison et al. (US 3311718). Here again, none of the reference teach, suggest, or motivate one to dispose a sealing member between a portion of the switch and an underside of the panel, and independent claims 1, 9, and 10 are all amended herein to recite combinations with that feature.

IV. Request For Allowance

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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